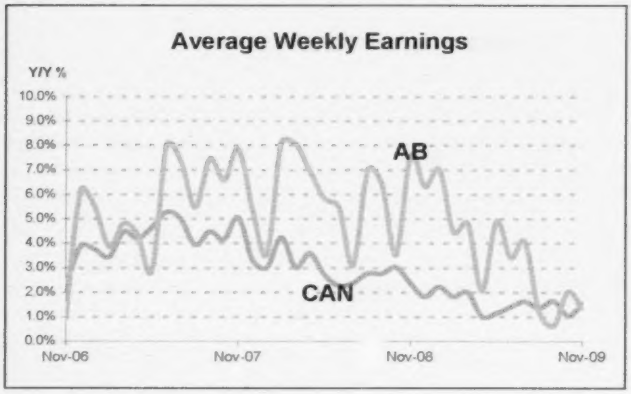
Average Weekly Earnings

Alberta's wage growth in line with national rate…

Following a slight decline last month, Alberta's average weekly earnings rose 1.8% in November to a seasonally adjusted $967.00. The province continues to have the highest average weekly earnings in the country, well above the national average of $830.46. Despite the monthly increase, Alberta's year-over-year wage growth has slowed to 1.4%, which is slightly below the Canadian average growth of 1.5%.



Labour Productivity

Modest improvement in Alberta's productivity…

Between 1997 to 2008, labour productivity in Alberta's business sector increased at an annaul average of 0.6%. This was lower than the national average of 1.3%, and was due to Alberta's transition from the traditional oil industry to oil sands, and the booming population, which led to strong growth in labour-intensive services industries which have lower average productivity.

Industrial Prices

IPPI and RMPI fell in December …

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) and the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) declined 0.1% and 1.7% respectively, in December. The decline in the IPPI was largely due to lower petroleum and coal prices. Year-over-year, the IPPI fell 0.8% in December, its tenth consecutive decline. Meanwhile, the RMPI was pulled down by lower prices for mineral fuels, particularly crude oil.

Canadian Dollar (US¢/CS)		
	January 29, 2010	93.90
	January 22, 2010	94.66
	2009-10 YTD	91.05
WTI Oil US$/bbl		
	January 28, 2010	$73.64
	January 21, 2010	$76.08
	2009-10 YTD	$69.01
Nymex Natural Gas CS/MMBtu *		
Near-month Contract		
	January 29, 2010	$5.57
	January 22, 2010	$6.10

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Real GDP

Canadian economy grew in November…

Canadian real gross domestic product advanced 0.4% in November, the third consecutive monthly increase. The goods-producing sector grew 0.6% while the services industries advanced 0.4%. Gains were recorded in most sectors, with mining and oil and gas extraction and wholesale trade accounting for 60% of the overall increase. Meanwhile, retail trade and utilities declined, while the manufacturing sector remained essentially unchanged.

U.S Economy

Recession behind, recovery ahead…

U.S real GDP increased at an annual rate of 5.7% in the fourth quarter of 2009 (advance estimate), the fastest pace of quarterly growth in six years. While the increase reflected higher exports (+18.1%) and personal consumption expenditures (+2.0%), most of the gain was due to higher private inventory investment. Excluding inventory investment, real GDP advanced by a modest 2.2%. A more tepid growth is expected in the quarters ahead, as the impact of the fiscal stimulus wanes.

Global Economy

IMF more upbeat on global economy…

The IMF raised its projection for global economic growth to 3.9% for 2010 and 4.3% in 2011. The recovery will be largely driven by emerging and developing economies, forecast to grow by 6.0 in 2010. Meanwhile, a sluggish recovery is expected in most advanced economies, with Canada and US forecast to grow by 2.6 % and 2.7% in 2010.

Alberta

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Overall Economy	2007	2008	2009YTD*	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Real GDP (in 2002 $billions)	185.9	185.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
% change	2.5	0.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nominal GDP ($ billions)	256.9	291.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
% change	7.7	14.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Population[1] (000's) (level)	3,513	3,596	3,688	3,688	--	--	3,704	--	--
% change	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.6	--	--	2.3	--	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton[1] (level)	33,809	15,317	23,006	4,737	--	--	-2,535	--	--
Net International Migration[1] (level)	16,372	20,039	20,074	6,089	--	--	7,976	--	--
Net Non-permanent Residents[1] (level)	14,105	18,536	19,058	2,594	--	--	2,439	--	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's)	1,959	2,013	1,988	1,986	1,979	1,982	1,967	1,980	1,994
% change	4.7	2.8	-1.3	-1.6	-1.6	-1.9	-3.4	-2.3	-1.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.5	3.6	6.6	7.2	7.4	7.1	7.5	7.4	6.7
Average Hourly Wage Rate	6.0	5.7	4.3	4.6	5.9	3.7	3.9	2.5	1.4
Average Weekly Earnings[2] NEW!	5.8	6.0	3.2	4.1	1.2	0.6	2.0	1.4	--
Labour Income[3]	10.5	8.7	1.7	0.3	-1.6	-1.9	--	--	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index	5.0	3.1	-0.1	-1.5	-1.7	-1.1	0.1	0.8	0.6
Excluding food and energy	5.0	2.1	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.0	0.7
Non-Res. Const. Cost Index[4] (quarterly)	17.4	13.2	-9.3	--	--	-14.8	--	--	--
Farm Product Price Index	15.1	11.2	-10.6	-16.6	-17.3	-18.8	--	--	--
Crops	43.4	26.2	-22.9	-26.5	-23.6	-20.2	--	--	--
Livestock	0.6	2.3	0.4	-9.8	-15.4	-13.2	--	--	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	48.1	29.0	19.2	19.3	20.1	22.6	26.6	26.0	27.4
% change	-2.1	-39.7	-33.7	-32.0	-13.7	-6.2	5.6	26.8	37.0
New Housing Price Index	22.5	0.7	-9.2	-9.3	-8.9	-8.9	-7.9	-7.1	--
Edmonton	32.1	1.0	-11.3	-11.1	-11.4	-11.4	-10.1	-9.8	--
Calgary	16.2	0.6	-7.0	-7.3	-6.3	-6.4	-5.6	-4.2	--
MLS Average Resale Prices	24.3	-1.4	-3.1	-2.4	0.2	1.3	2.6	3.5	7.0
Edmonton	34.3	-2.0	-3.5	-3.1	-3.3	0.7	0.4	0.0	2.6
Calgary	18.7	-2.9	-4.2	-5.2	-0.4	1.1	2.9	4.4	8.8
Retail Sales	9.3	-0.1	-9.3	-8.4	-10.1	-8.8	-6.5	-6.9	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	3.3	-7.3	-23.2	-18.6	-20.6	-15.6	-13.3	-21.3	--
Business Sector									
Public and Private Investment[5]	9.1	3.6	-17.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mining and oil and gas[5]	0.3	-1.4	-28.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rigs Drilling	-35.2	-2.1	-45.6	-66.2	-62.7	-54.1	-50.9	-35.6	-3.8
Goods Exports (customs based)	5.3	34.6	-39.2	-43.9	-42.6	-40.3	-39.6	--	--
Energy	4.4	42.5	-44.1	-48.0	-45.1	-42.3	-41.3	--	--
Agriculture	9.8	32.0	-7.4	-6.8	-9.3	-23.8	-23.8	--	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	11.9	17.2	-6.7	--	--	-16.1	--	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments	1.1	7.0	-22.8	-32.7	-25.9	-29.2	-23.0	-11.6	--
Wholesale Trade	5.0	10.9	-14.5	-16.8	-22.5	-20.3	-24.1	-17.3	--
Building Permits	13.4	-16.5	-21.3	-29.8	-7.6	-8.0	77.1	8.0	--
Residential	10.7	-31.5	-17.3	-9.5	39.1	40.8	53.6	50.5	--
Non-residential	17.1	3.7	-24.8	-46.1	-46.9	-46.0	101.3	-20.2	--

Government of Alberta
Finance and Enterprise

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30).2009 YTD population numbers are final for the census year.

[2] The average weekly earnings series was extensively revised on March 31, 2009 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins

[3] Total income earning in Alberta including wages and salaries, and supplementary income.

[4] Average of Calgary and Edmonton.

[5] 2009 total based on revised investment intentions, 2008 preliminary actuals, and 2007 actuals; 2009 mining and oil and gas based on initial investment intentions.

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association) and Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors).

Alberta

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, BY PROVINCE

	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Conference Board Forecast (Autumn 2009)											
Real GDP Growth											
2008 (actuals, Statistics Canada)	***0.4%***	0.5%	0.5%	2.2%	0.0%	1.0%	-0.5%	2.0%	4.2%	**0.0%**	0.0%
2009	***-2.3%***	-3.6%	0.9%	0.4%	0.4%	-1.4%	-2.9%	0.5%	-2.6%	**-2.6%**	-2.0%
2010	***3.0%***	-0.5%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.4%	3.2%	2.5%	3.7%	**3.0%**	4.2%
Population (As of October 1, 2009)											
Population	**33,873,357**	510,272	141,374	940,397	750,457	7,856,881	13,119,251	1,226,196	1,034,974	**3,703,979**	4,479,934
Annual Growth Rate[a]	***1.2%***	0.5%	0.7%	0.3%	0.4%	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%	1.6%	**2.3%**	1.6%
Net Interprovincial Migration											
2009 Census Year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009)		2,332	-559	-1,255	-537	-10,666	-18,738	-1,541	4,108	**23,006**	4,673
2010 Census Year (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)		863	-283	320	38	-120	-1,748	-712	823	**-2,535**	3,457
Employment											
Level Change (000s)[b]	**-184.0**	1.3	2.0	-1.0	-2.4	-17.1	-117.8	-4.6	2.6	**-20.1**	-27.0
Percent Change[b]	***-1.1%***	0.6%	3.0%	-0.2%	-0.7%	-0.4%	-1.8%	-0.8%	0.5%	**-1.0%**	-1.2%
Unemployment Rate, 2009 avg (SA)	***8.3***	15.5	12.1	9.2	8.9	8.5	9.1	5.2	4.8	**6.5**	7.6
Participation Rate, 2009 avg (SA)	***67.3***	59.3	68.0	64.6	64.7	65.2	67.3	69.4	70.2	**74.3**	66.0
Average Weekly Earnings											
November 2009 NEW!	**830.46**	823.79	692.89	733.10	751.11	764.37	856.57	783.65	816.31	**967.00**	798.86
Y/Y Percent Increase[c]	***1.5%***	4.7%	3.6%	1.8%	2.0%	2.1%	1.5%	3.6%	2.0%	**1.4%**	0.3%
2009 Wage Settlements (Jan-Dec) NEW!										**1.8%**	
CPI Inflation											
December Annual	**1.3%**	1.9%	3.0%	2.6%	3.0%	2.1%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	**0.6%**	0.4%
Excluding Shelter	**2.4%**	2.6%	4.0%	3.4%	3.6%	2.7%	2.4%	1.9%	2.1%	**2.3%**	1.9%
Housing Starts (000s)											
SAAR December 2009	**174.5**	4.0	1.3	3.5	3.9	49.7	56.0	3.8	4.2	**27.4**	20.8
Retail Sales											
Percent Change[d]	**0.6%**	4.5%	1.3%	6.6%	3.7%	2.1%	1.3%	1.4%	-1.9%	**-6.9%**	2.0%
2009 YTD Retail Sales Growth	**-3.9%**	2.2%	-1.1%	-0.5%	-0.9%	-1.6%	-3.5%	-1.6%	-2.8%	**-9.3%**	-6.3%
Manufacturing Shipments											
Percent Change[d]	**-7.8%**	-7.9%	6.2%	-5.1%	21.8%	-4.0%	-9.3%	-13.7%	-13.4%	**-11.6%**	-10.8%

a. Over the past 12 months
b. December 2009 Y/Y change, unadjusted for seasonal effects
c. Updated to November 2009
d. November 2009 Y/Y change, unadjusted for seasonal effects
SA-Seasonally Adjusted, SAAR-Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate
Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Conference Board of Canada